

SEA LINK PROJECT

Written Summary of Oral Submission – 6th November 2025

Interested Party No [REDACTED] – Mary Shipman

I have been a resident of Friston for over 30 years and am a member of Friston Parish Council.

Development with SPR

I attended and spoke at the SPR EA1N and EA2 Examinations in 2020/21. Although National Grid's attendance at those Examinations was scant, it made clear that the NG substation in Friston was solely to facilitate the Scottish Power projects. There is little doubt however that NG was already planning the projects now known as Sea Link, Lionlink and Nautilus. Despite being offered a connection at Grain, Nautilus could still return as the third project in Saxmundham. Mike Elmer of National Grid confirmed in a meeting with members of Friston Parish Council that if Nautilus did not use the connection at Friston, another NG project would take its place.

With regard to NG's application to examine Scenario 2, Sea Link has recently published Community Updates for Suffolk and Kent , November 2025 (Appendix 1). On page 2, bullet point 3 it says *"We will build Kiln Lane substation near Friston under SPR's DCO at the same time as they build their two substations. This will reduce overall construction time and disruption. If Lionlink receives consent before late 2028, that project could connect into Kiln Lane in the same set of works"*

SPR has now issued an invitation to FPC to attend its Stage 3 Substation Design Workshop on 26th November 2025 (Appendix 2). The invitation states that this will be a final design and will include NG's Kiln Lane substation design within the presentations. The updated Landscape Masterplan and 3D models of the substations have now been released ahead of this workshop and are also attached as a separate document in this submission.

The above information released by National Grid and SPR confirms that both companies intend to go ahead with construction under the SPR DCOs. Therefore there can be no need to examine Scenario 2, which would be a complete waste of resources.

Cumulative Impact

I trust the ExA has seen and understood the magnitude of the Sizewell C project which already is having negative impacts across a wide area, including loss of important

landscape features and a significant increase in traffic. Construction is said to take 10 years, however as seen in the construction at Hinkley Point, this period could be much longer. East Anglia Two is only in its pre-construction phase and yet its effects on the local community are only too evident in closed roads, ruined landscapes, increased traffic and noise. The main construction period for EA2 is said to be two years plus one year for commissioning. EA2 will be followed sequentially by EA1N on a similar timescale and it is considered possible, if not probable, that construction of the two projects could take 9 years in all. It was agreed by representatives of Scottish Power recently that works on the substation site could last 10 years.

National Grid documents make it clear that there is space for 3 converter stations at Saxmundham, all connecting to the NG substation in Friston. Also proposed is Helios Energy Park, a 250MW solar farm with battery storage, which will occupy up to 2000 acres of farmland surrounding Friston. Helios has made submissions into this Examination on its interface with Sea Link and it has a grid connection offer at Friston dating from December 2023. The third project at Saxmundham and the Helios project should be included in the cumulative impact assessment, as should the construction of the Saxmundham South Garden Neighbourhood, a development of 800 homes, schools and employment opportunities in close proximity to the Sea Link converter stations. This project is accounted for in the Local Plan and a formal planning application is expected imminently. It has now become apparent that two further large solar farms (of 400 MW and 600MW), identified as SolarSeven Ltd and Noventum Power, have connection offers at Friston.

Flooding

Of particular concern to Friston is the impact of the project on surface water flooding. Friston has a long and well-documented history of surface water flooding. My own home in Friston is close to the watercourse into which Scottish Power proposed to discharge their surface water under the terms of their DCO. Our house has been flooded internally on a number of occasions and the frequency has increased in recent years as storms become more regular and intense. Scottish Power has recently stated that they will not need to discharge into the Friston watercourse as they have found infiltration only on the substation site to be feasible. On behalf of residents, I would ask the Examining Authority to require Sea Link to also follow the infiltration only method of disposal of surface water and not to discharge into the Friston watercourse.

Footpaths

Another concern of local people is the loss of large parts of the footpath network around the village, some closures of which are permanent. The Sea Link project adds to this lack of connectivity due to the cable routes to and from the development in Saxmundham sterilising more of the countryside around Friston.

Conclusion

All of this is being visited on a small rural area, where people have chosen to live for its beauty and tranquillity. As the Ex A in the SPR examination reported “*Friston is a tranquil location with dark skies*”. The future for the residents of Friston is bleak as the stream of energy projects looking to connect here seems endless. In many cases for residents this upheaval will last for the rest of their lives and for others the effects on the landscape will be permanent.

Will the ExA please consider the recommendations of the ExA’s report on the Scottish Power proposals and take heed of its warning that “*the effects of cumulative delivery are so **substantially adverse** and the **utmost care** would be required in any amendments or additions to development in this location*”. Sea Link has failed to demonstrate this utmost care in its proposals and indeed seeks to overturn much the mitigation secured in the SPR DCOs.

END

APPENDICES FOLLOW

1 How would Aldeburgh Beach be affected by Sea Link?

Sea Link would not impact Aldeburgh beach or RSPB North Warren. Cable would be installed approximately 20 metres (equivalent in height to around four and a half double decker buses) beneath the beach and the reserve using trenchless technology. No disturbance would occur to the beach or the reserve, which would both remain open for public use during construction and operation.

You can watch a video about how we use trenchless technology to install cables beneath environmentally sensitive sites and the coast by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera:



2 Why can't Sea Link connect somewhere else, like Bradwell?

We need to reinforce the network in the Sizewell area, due to the amount of new generation that will be connected here.

Bradwell in Essex is too far south from where Sea Link must connect. Connecting Sea Link at Bradwell would mean building more new infrastructure between Bradwell and the Sizewell area.

3 How is National Grid coordinating with other developers in Suffolk?

We meet with Sizewell C, Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) and National Grid Ventures every month to discuss coordination between our projects.

Our proposed converter station site is shared with LionLink, allowing the landscaping and design to be cohesive and reducing the construction impact of building on two separate sites.

We will build Kiln Lane substation near Friston under SPR's DCO at the same time as they build their two substations. This will reduce overall construction time and disruption. If LionLink receives consent before late 2028, that project could connect into Kiln Lane in the same set of works.

With Sizewell C, we are exploring the possibility of sharing their Park and Ride and accommodation facilities to reduce local impacts.

4 Why can't you build Sea Link offshore?

Sea Link is almost entirely offshore, but to connect to the electricity transmission network we still need to come onshore somewhere. Whilst that involves building some new infrastructure onshore in Suffolk, we are proposing to bury as much of this as possible beneath the ground.

There is no such thing as a fully offshore grid. In Europe, as in Britain, some new onshore infrastructure like cables and pylons are still needed to bring power ashore. This is needed even when infrastructure like energy islands exist, or are being proposed, out at sea. No matter how far out to sea you go, electricity still needs to reach homes and businesses on land.

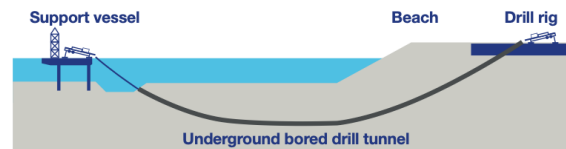


Diagram showing trenchless crossing

What's happening now?



The detailed Examination of our application began on 5 November 2025, and will run until 5 May 2026. This process is being run by the Planning Inspectorate.

During the Examination, there will be hearings where those who have registered in advance can attend and give their views about our application. The first round of hearings in Suffolk took place between 5 and 6 November 2025, with further hearings to be held in early 2026.

For more information, please visit the Planning Inspectorate's website by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or search online for 'Sea Link Planning Inspectorate'.



Example of subsea cable drum

Contact us

You can find out more about our proposals by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera or visiting nationalgrid.com/sealink



Contact us:
contact@sealink.nationalgrid.com
0808 134 9569

nationalgrid

APPENDIX 2



13th November 2025

Invitation to Stage 3 Substation Design - Workshop

Dear Friston Parish Council

I am writing to you as a host Parish Council of ScottishPower Renewable's East Anglia TWO and East Anglia ONE North substations, as well as National Grid's Kiln Lane substation. We would like to invite you to a final engagement workshop that will give you further opportunity to review our updated design plans, gain an insight into the design process and provide final feedback.

Event details:

- Wednesday 26th November – 5pm – 8pm
- Britten Studio, Snape Maltings, Saxmundham, IP17 1SR

The information event will include:

- Landscape Masterplan and public rights of way design – an overview of the final draft of the design plans, including adjustments made based on feedback from Stage 1 & 2 engagement
- Display of final draft architectural concept design of all three substations within the Masterplan area
- Ecological and biodiversity initiatives that have been embedded in the Masterplan design
- Overview of the approach to operational and construction drainage
- 3D model animation presentation – a virtual walkthrough around the substation Masterplan area, illustrating our final draft landscape proposals plans, architectural design, drainage and ecological and biodiversity enhancements
- Opportunity to interact with 360-degree model views from key locations
- Open discussion and feedback – an opportunity for you to raise any further questions, concerns or suggestions relating to our designs

Many of our subject matter experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide information.

A copy of our updated Landscape Masterplan, Landscape implementation proposals, Aerial view of 3D model and Architectural Concept Views will also be sent in advance of the workshop.

Please note there will be a further information event to display plans, open to the public in early 2026, in advance of the main construction stage beginning.

Please RSVP using the details below by Friday 21st November if you wish to attend this workshop.

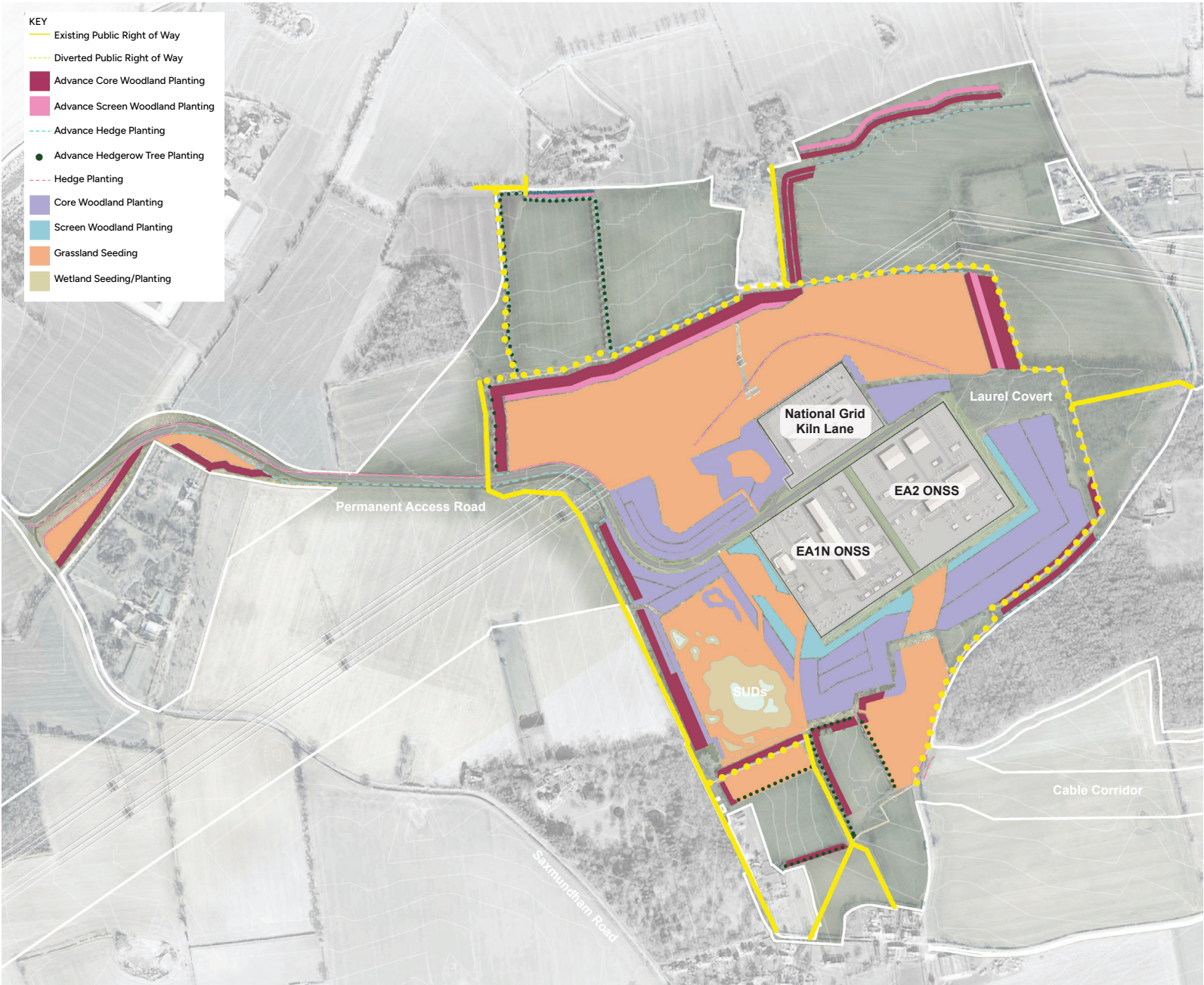
Stage 3 Engagement

East Anglia ONE North (EA1N) and East Anglia TWO (EA2) Onshore Substation Landscape Masterplan



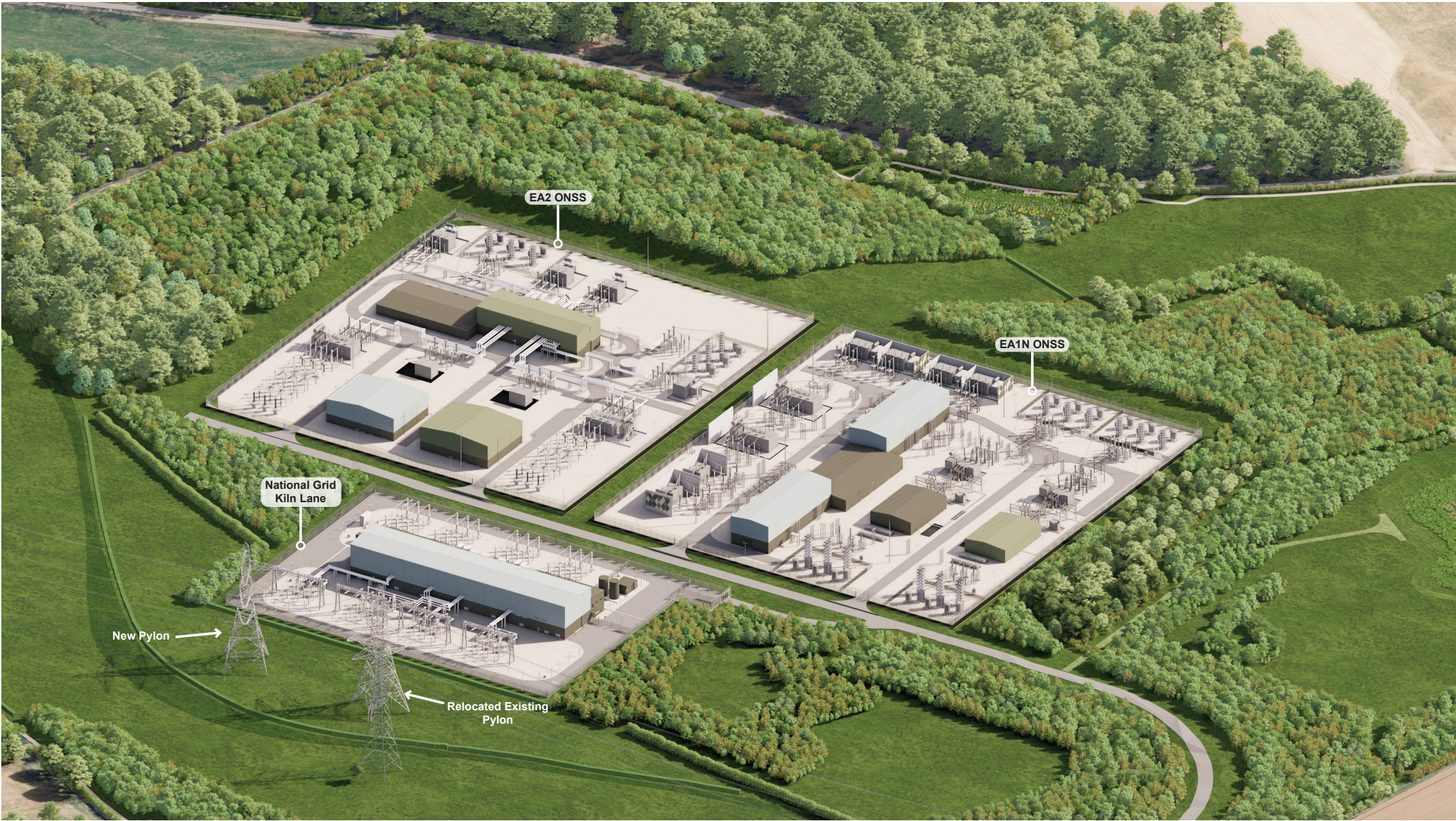
Stage 3 Engagement

Landscape Implementation Proposals (Post-Engagement)



Stage 3 Engagement

Aerial View of 3D Model



Stage 3 Engagement

Architectural Concept Views



View looking from footpath from South East (advance planting only)



View looking from footpath from North West (advance planting only)



View looking from footpath from South West (advance planting only)